



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Veronica Rivera, Communications Director: (602) 364-1236

### WIFA Chairman Owens Announces \$113,000 Loan to Ashcreek Water Company in Graham County

PHOENIX --- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens announced today a \$113,000 loan to Ashcreek Water Company to increase its drinking water storage capacity and reduce arsenic levels to meet the new federal arsenic standard.

“We have made it a priority to help water providers in rural communities address their arsenic problems,” said Chairman Owens, who is also director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. “We want to make sure that the drinking water being served by the Ashcreek Water Company meets the federal standard.”

The water company serves 260 people south of Thatcher and Pima in Graham County. The company is currently being operated by an interim operator assigned by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The company has two sources of water, one well that produces water with an arsenic concentration of 19 parts per billion (ppb) and the other in which arsenic is at 3 ppb. The federal arsenic standard is 10ppb.

The WIFA funding will allow Ashcreek Water Company to refurbish an existing 20,000 gallon storage tank and construct a transmission line for blending the water from the two wells to comply with the new arsenic standard.

WIFA [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov) provides communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical help needed for basic water infrastructure.